JAZZ ON THE CIRCLE

Severance Hall

The Cleveland Museum of Art

Northeast Ohio Jazz Society

Tri-C JazzFest

For Immediate Release
January 5, 1996

## THE MINGUS BIG BAND TO REPLACE GERRY MULLIGAN IN FEBRUARY 2 JAZZ ON THE CIRCLE CONCERT

(Cleveland) -- Due to ill health, saxophonist Gerry Mulligan has canceled his February 2 appearance in Gartner Auditorium at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Replacing Mulligan will be the Mingus Big Band. Existing Mulligan tickets are valid for the Mingus Big Band show and ticket holders may simply present their tickets at the door. Ticket holders may also choose to return their tickets for a tax deduction, or receive a refund. The deadline for all returns is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 2, 1996 and must be done in person at the Severance Hall Ticket Office.

Jazz composer Andrew Homzy calls the fourteen-piece Mingus Band "the most exciting big band performing today." Sue Mingus, the widow of Charles Mingus, has personally selected musicians for the band who performed with Charles, and younger musicians who are particularly attuned to the very personal Mingus sound. Many of today's great artists are in the ranks, including saxophonists Craig Handy (whose father John was a vital member of several Mingus ensembles) and Howard Johnson (himself a Mingus veteran), trombonist Robin Eubanks and pianist Kenny Drew, Jr. Complete personnel is as follows:

Ryan Kisor, Earl Gardner and Alex Sipiagin, *Trumpets*; Robin Eubanks, Frank Lacy and Dave Taylor, *Trombones*; Craig Handy, Steve Wilson, Steve Slagle, Seamus Blake and Howard Johnson, *Saxophones;* Kenny Drew, Jr., *piano*; Andy McKee, *Bass;* Gene Jackson, *Drums*. Frank Lacy and Steve Slagle also serve as co-music directors.

**TICKETS**

Severance Hall
Ticket Office

11001 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

**231-1111**
1-800-686-1141

FAX (216) 231-4038

-continued on next page-

Charles Mingus, respected throughout his life as an extraordinary bass player, wrote challenging large-scale works, but rarely managed to hear them performed as he would have wished. Mingus died in 1979 at the age of 56.

The Mingus Big Band arose in the wake of a landmark Mingus event in 1989 when writer and composer Gunther Schuller produced the first-ever complete performance of Mingus' massive work for 31 instruments, "Epitaph," which was also performed in Severance Hall as part of the 1990 Tri-C JazzFest.

The band is re-introducing relatively unplayed material from Charles Mingus' vast book, rather than simply rehashing the best known pieces, allowing the audience to sample the richness and variety of Mingus' voicings. The band's approach to the music emulates the workshop-based methods of Mingus himself, constantly on the lookout for fresh ways of enlivening, embellishing and revitalizing the material.

Tickets for the Mingus Big Band on Friday, February 2 at 8:00 p.m. are $30, $23, and $18 and may be purchased through the Severance Hall Ticket Office. The Ticket Office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. To charge tickets by phone on American Express, Discover Card, MasterCard, or Visa, call Cleveland Orchestra Ticket Services at (216) 231-1111 or 1-800-686-1141. There is no added service charge or handling fees for ticket purchases through the Severance Hall Ticket Office.

Jazz on the Circle is a collaboration between the Northeast Ohio Jazz Society, Severance Hall, the Cleveland Museum of Art, and the Tri-C JazzFest. Funding has been provided from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest National Jazz Network, the Cleveland, Gund, Kulas, and Murphy foundations, and the Ohio Arts Council. Promotional support is being provided by WCPN 90.3 FM, Cleveland Public Radio.

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